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11 August 1953

MEMORANDUM FOR: Acting Director of Central Intelligence

SUBJECT : Executive Order Establishing the Operations  
Coordinating Board

1. Mr. Tracy Barnes, speaking for the Deputy Director (Plans), has raised the following points:

a. Should Section 2(a)(3) be amended to assure that the Operations Coordinating Board does not get into the detailed execution and carrying out of plans?

b. With the same thought, Mr. Barnes suggests that it would be preferable from his point of view to word Section 2(a)(4) so that the Operations Coordinating Board would suggest or recommend to the Planning Board or to the appropriate agency or agencies any proposals for action or for such additional planning as may be necessary. He feels the present wording will bring the Operations Coordinating Board into the details of execution of operations.

2. Comment. There will be a reluctance to accept the amended wording, which will require recoordination of the Order. Substantially, the present wording was agreed to on Friday, 7 August 1953, and Mr. Dulles read hastily that draft without objection. The question of the relation of the Operations Coordinating Board to the details of operations was discussed in the preliminary meeting on Friday, consisting of Mr. Stassen,  Mr. Kyes, Mr. Wisner, and myself. It was the consensus that the Operations Coordinating Board would need to know enough about operations to know that they were consistent with policy and that this would vary greatly from case to case.

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3. As I understand it there is no intention that the Operations Coordinating Board or its staff must review each project in detail. Consequently, I believe the present wording of the proposed Order is acceptable even though other language might be preferable. You may wish to discuss this with the Deputy Director (Plans).

/S/  
LAWRENCE R. HOUSTON  
General Counsel

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(only)

cc: DD/P

OGC chrono

OGC Subject "Old Operations Coordinating Board"

OGC:LRH:jeb

Mr. Breckenridge called for Mr. Barnes re the draft of the EO we sent to him today.

In reference to Section 2(a)(4), Mr. Barnes believes it is important to include words showing to whom OCB "initiates" new proposals. Otherwise it gets into operational planning since initiating an amendment to a plan is just as much planning as initiating the original plan. Mr. Barnes suggests that it should read "Suggest (or Recommend if you prefer) to the planning board (that is Cutler's group) or to the appropriate agency or agencies any proposals for action or for such additional planning as may be necessary." In the absence of some statements as to whom this initiation, suggestion, or recommendation goes, the word initiates floats in ambiguity.

Mr. Barnes does not want to agree to the present wording of Section 2(a)(4), if he has anything to do about it, but prefers his suggestion above.

Mr. Barnes is troubled about Section 2(a)(3) as he is afraid this may put the OCB in a position to be immediately connected with the carrying out of plans.

With respect to the Order generally, there is nothing about paragraphs 2 and 3 of NSC 10/5. Do people figure that since the PSB going out of business the functions it is given under paragraphs 2 and 3 will simultaneously die, or should they be specifically mentioned in this EO and killed, or do they intend to continue paragraphs 2 and 3.

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